

# **The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21st Century**

**program booklet 1997**

**the second national  
asian women's health  
conference**

**national asian  
women's health  
organization**

**MH97D3090**



NAWHO

# **The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21st Century**

**the second national  
asian women's health  
conference**

**program booklet 1997**

**Los Angeles, California  
May 30-31, 1997**

# Acknowledgments

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The National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO) gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their generous support of "The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21st Century", the second biennial national Asian women's health conference:

✓ **National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Public Health Service  
Department of Health and Human Services**

**Women's Health, Pfizer, Inc.**

**The California Wellness Foundation**

**Bristol-Myers Squibb, Co. Oncology/Immunology**

**Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories**

**GlaxoWellcome, Inc.**

**Kaiser Permanente Southern California**

**ARCO Foundation**

**Eli Lilly and Company**

NAWHO also wishes to give special recognition to the following funders, who currently provide organizational and program support:

**The Breast Cancer Fund**

**California Community Foundation**

**Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation**

**The Moriah Fund**

**Norman Foundation**

**Office of Family Planning, California Department of Health Services**

**Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services**

**Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund**

**S.H. Cowell Foundation**

**The San Francisco Foundation**

**The Sister Fund**

**The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation**

Special thanks to the following individuals who volunteered their time and energy to make this conference possible:

Caroline Bontia ■ Cindy Chin ■ Tina Chinakarn ■ Kelly Eom ■ Neelam Gupta ■ Prasanna Jagannathan ■ Stella Jun ■  
Sue Kim ■ Vanessa Lee ■ Rina Mehta ■ Enisha Narang ■ Lisa Nguyen ■ Patty Pinanong ■ Kim Tachiki ■  
Flouran Wali ■ Karen Yu

## **Letter From the Founder**

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May 30, 1997

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the second biennial national Asian Women's Health Conference, "The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21st Century"!

We at NAWHO have formulated and developed this event with the vision of providing a positive and inspiring environment where Asian women and girls can work together to solve the many complex problems affecting our health and well-being. We believe that the conference will prove to be a momentous and powerful time for all of us here today, from our legislative representatives to health care providers, and from community organizers to those who have never had the opportunity to organize in support of their own needs and concerns. A powerful time, in that each of us will find a new hope, a new motivation to stand up and take action to advocate for the vulnerable in our communities.

In these urgent times—where immigrants are under attack, where discrimination continues to run rampant, where our right to fundamental freedoms is being challenged—it is up to us to take control of our lives, and shape the future of our communities. We hope that in this exciting weekend of information-sharing, training, and discussion, you will be able connect with other advocates from your area; that you may go back to your communities with the vital support and resources necessary to create change and *be* the pro-active Asian women's health movement.

Thank you for joining us in Los Angeles, and for continuing to support the critical work of NAWHO. Please enjoy the conference!

Mary Chung  
Executive Director and Founder of NAWHO

## **Letter From the Board of Directors**

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May 30, 1997

Dear NAWHO Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO), it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to "The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21st Century", the second biennial national Asian women's health conference.

For the past three years, NAWHO has been an important and effective advocate for Asian women's health issues, bringing the needs and concerns of Asian women to the public policy table. On November 17-19, 1995, NAWHO sponsored the first national Asian women's health conference in San Francisco, which was attended by over 500 participants. During that time, we came together to define a new Asian women's health care agenda that would finally incorporate the full range of issues affecting of the lives of our diverse Asian American population.

At this conference, we invite participants to share their experiences and knowledge with one another, and continue the process of developing an inclusive, cohesive, and long-lasting national Asian women's health movement. Across ethnicities, class, professional and generational lines let us spend the next two days extending a process we have already begun—creating a political presence and voice for Asian American women that will define our presence in America into the next millennium.

Thank you for your participation, and we look forward to working together to improve the overall quality of our lives, and empower ourselves to be a strong political and social force in the 21st century.

Jael Silliman, EdD  
Chair  
NAWHO Board of Directors

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 25, 1997

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in Los Angeles for the second national health conference of the National Asian Women's Health Organization.

I applaud the dedication of the legislators, health care providers, business professionals, medical researchers, and many other concerned individuals who have come together at this conference to address the health needs of Asian American women. You can take pride in your efforts to promote health programs and support services that are both practical and visionary. By striving to ensure the health of Asian American women, you are reaffirming our profound commitment to America's promise of opportunity and equality for all.

Your conference's theme, "The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21st Century," reminds us that we must rededicate ourselves to building on the strength of our nation's great diversity. My Administration shares your commitment to creating a world that allows everyone the freedom to reach his or her own potential, and I commend you for your work to empower Asian American women with the knowledge, leadership skills, and confidence to succeed in our multicultural society.

Best wishes for a successful conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.



GOVERNOR PETE WILSON

May 24, 1997

**TO: NATIONAL ASIAN WOMEN'S  
HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

I am delighted to extend my warm regards and welcome to everyone who has gathered in Los Angeles for your second national health conference.

California depends on organizations such as yours in ensuring that all our citizens are equipped, trained and prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow, and I applaud your commitment to make a positive difference in the lives of Asian American women and girls.

The next three days promise to be very beneficial as legislators, health care providers, medical researchers, business professionals and many others are on hand to address the timely issue of greater civic participation and leadership development on Asian women's health issues.

May this gathering provide a wonderful opportunity not only to exchange ideas related to this year's theme, "The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," and chart the course that you will follow in the future, but to take stock in your organization's enormous success so far.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and productive meeting and every future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pete Wilson'.

PETE WILSON

STATE CAPITOL • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • (916) 445-2841



BARBARA BOXER  
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
AND PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE ON BANKING,  
HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

## United States Senate

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 112  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0505  
(202) 224-3553

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SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
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2300 TULARE STREET  
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FRESNO, CA 93721  
(209) 497-5109

May 29, 1997

National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO)  
c/o Trisha Murakawa  
10501 Valley Blvd., Ste. 117  
El Monte, California 91731

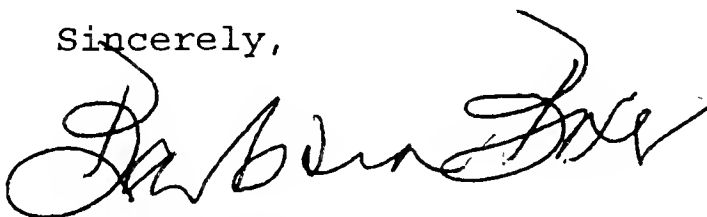
Dear Friends:

My warmest greetings to you as you come together for your second annual national health conference. I send my best wishes for memorable days of activities and events.

I commend NAWHO for its ongoing commitment and dedication undertaken on behalf of women's health issues. Through your efforts, you are making a tremendous difference in the lives of many.

I hope that all in attendance will leave with a renewed sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

BB:smj  
enc.

PATSY T. MINK  
SECOND DISTRICT, HAWAII

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2135 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1102**

COMMITTEE ON STEERING  
AND POLICY  
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM  
AND OVERSIGHT  
(on leave)

TO THE NATIONAL ASIAN WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
on the occasion of the Second National Health  
conference in Los Angeles, May 29-31, 1997

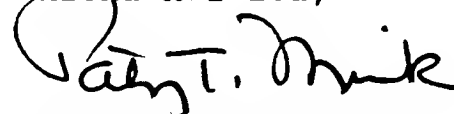
I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend to you my warmest Aloha and greeting on the occasion of the second National Health Conference sponsored by the National Asian Women's Health Organization.

The health status of Asian women and girls in America is an important issue and it is most gratifying that your organization is involved in gathering information and promoting research in this field. In much of the data and research reports that are disseminated nationally there is seldom reference to the Asian community, let alone the women and girls that comprise a significant part of it.

Language, culture and family traditions oftentimes are barriers to regular health care services for Asian families, particularly the aging members. And even if they are frequent users of health care, their presence is not usually noted or recorded and no statistical information is derived. This lack of data for Asian women and girls means that their needs go unrecorded and for the most part they are not included in national trends in disease and recovery rates.

This travesty in meeting the health care needs of Asian women and girls is being addressed by this significant gathering of researchers and experts. I am confident that the outcomes will greatly enhance our health care and help to fill the gaps in information and data. I extend my best wishes to the presenters and to their audience and look forward to reading the report of this important gathering.

Aloha nui loa,



PATSY T. MINK  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

NANCY PELOSI  
8TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

May, 1997

### **Greetings from Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi**

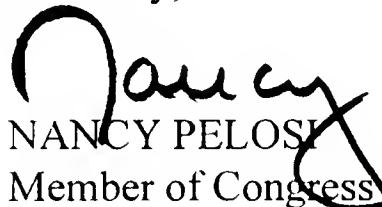
It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the second national health conference of the National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO).

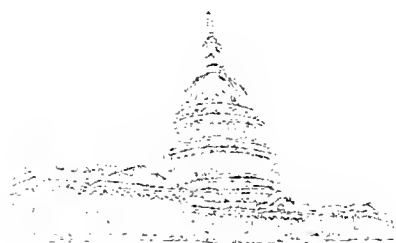
I commend NAWHO for its efforts on behalf of Asian women and girls. I am impressed that NAWHO has taken a leadership role in developing strategies to empower Asian women and girls to actively participate in creating a dynamic and inclusive health movement for all women.

I encourage you to continue your efforts to educate all communities of interest about the health care needs and issues of Asian women and girls. Continue to build upon NAWHO's fine work in developing a network of support in your own communities.

Please accept my personal best wishes for a successful event, and continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

  
NANCY PELOSI  
Member of Congress



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ROBERT T. MATSUI  
5TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

*Dear Friends:*

*It is an honor for me to have this opportunity to welcome you to this important conference.*

*The National Asian Women's Health Organization has done a wonderful job of bringing together the leaders in every sector of public policy to address the needs and challenges facing Asian women's health issues.*

*I encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities this conference will afford to learn ways to make your own communities more responsive to the needs of Asian women and girls.*

*Please accept my best wishes for what I am certain will be a very rewarding and enjoyable conference.*

**ROBERT T. MATSUI**  
*Member of Congress*

Committee on the Budget

Committee on Banking  
and Financial Services

Subcommittee on Housing and  
Community Development

Subcommittee on Domestic  
and International Monetary Policy



**LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**  
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE:  
324 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0533  
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255 East Temple Street  
Suite 1860  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3334  
Telephone: (213) 628-9230

SECOND VICE-CHAIR  
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

**MESSAGE FROM  
CONGRESSWOMAN LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

**9 May 1997**

*It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO) on the occasion of its second national health conference.*

*This is certainly an important event and I salute NAWHO on its commitment to improving the overall health status of Asian women and girls. Your work calls for much needed attention to a community that is often neglected and reminds us that this constituency also have specific health concerns.*

*The National Association of Women's Health Organization provides an invaluable service and is an organization that deserves our support. I commend your staff, volunteers, and supporters and extend my best wishes for the success of the conference and the organization.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucille Roybal-Allard".

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**XAVIER BECERRA**  
30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

CHAIRMAN,  
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

May 29, 1997

Mary Chung, Executive Director  
National Asian Women's Health Organization  
250 Montgomery Street, Suite 410  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Ms. Chung:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend you and the National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO) for your tremendous efforts in organizing your second annual national health conference. This year's theme, "The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21st Century," is most appropriate in light of the many challenges facing Asian women in our society.

The goals of this year's conference are truly comprehensive and extremely important. They highlight the need for Asian American women leadership in all sectors of our society. Promoting empowerment through networking, education, and mentoring will increase the effectiveness of Asian American women in advocating for positive change in our nation's healthcare system.

Improving the quality of healthcare in this country is an important issue for all. Your conference will help to increase the awareness of health issues which specifically affect Asian women. It will also enhance the civic participation of the growing community of Asian women in the United States.

I am confident that your conference will be a wonderful success. I look forward to working with you in the future. Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA  
Member of Congress

XB:jw

RONALD V. DELLUMS  
9TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

RANKING MINORITY  
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

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(510) 763-0370



**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives**

March 24, 1997

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
CARLOTTIA A. W. SCOTT  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
CHARLES C. STEPHENSON, JR.  
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

DISTRICT OFFICE  
SANDRE R. SWANSON  
DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
H. LEE HALTERMAN  
GENERAL COUNSEL

National Asian Women's  
Health Organization

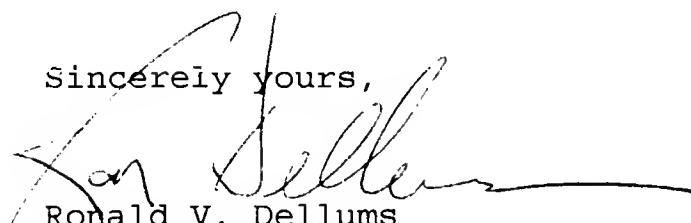
Dear Friends,

It is with admiration and respect that I offer my sincere congratulations to the National Asian Women's Health Organization in holding its second national health conference.

I commend your organization for bringing to the forefront these important health issues and concerns. Suicide, substance abuse, breast cancer and other social maladies can only be properly addressed through inclusive commitment and strategic planning. Creating a platform for discussion, advocacy and developing policy by promoting and encouraging Asian-American leadership and civic participation are productive and effective conference goals. The wellness of our communities is a multi-shared responsibility. I thank you for your pro-active stance and progressive agenda in focusing on these issues at your conference.

With this in mind, it is with great pleasure, that I lend my support to the National Asian Women's Health Organization and its effort of providing health services, mentoring and leadership to Asian women and girls.

Sincerely yours,

  
Ronald V. Dellums  
Member of Congress

RVD:rcb/tc

THIS PAPER IS MADE FROM RECYCLED FIBERS

## California State Senate

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EAST LOS ANGELES, CA 90022  
(213) 980-9560

SENATOR  
HILDA L. SOLIS  
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



### SENATE COMMITTEES

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA TRADE  
AND COMMERCE  
  
MEMBER  
FINANCE, INVESTMENT, AND  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
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NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE  
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PREPARATION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON BILINGUAL  
EDUCATION  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CRITICAL  
THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING  
IN OUR SCHOOLS

*May 29, 1997*

*Ms. Mary Chung  
Executive Director  
National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO)  
250 Montgomery Street Suite 410  
San Francisco, CA 94104*

*Dear Ms. Chung:*

*I am delighted to offer my greetings to all who are attending your second national health conference: "The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21st Century" in Los Angeles.*

*NAWHO's theme of increasing civic participation and leadership development on Asian women's health issues is not only timely but also crucial in light of recent federal legislation on welfare reform.*

*I salute your commitment and also commend the generous support of the sponsors and guests who made this event possible. Best wishes to you all for continued success!*

*Sincerely,*

**HILDA L. SOLIS**  
Senator, 24th District



SACRAMENTO OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 445-6577

## California State Senate

SENATOR  
BARBARA LEE  
NINTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

***Greetings to the Members and Participants of  
The National Asian Women's Health Organization's  
Second Annual Health Conference  
May 29-31***

*It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the many legislators, health care providers, medical researchers, business professionals, health advocates and community members who are taking part in this important event.*

*I applaud the National Asian Women's Health Organization for your contributions in research, outreach and advocacy in Asian Women's Health. I also commend you for your dedication to improving the development of programs and projects to promote health awareness which will encourage leadership, stimulate a close relationship among members, and develop working relationships.*

*Thank you for your effort and commitment to enhance the quality of life in our community. I am sure the conference will be a wonderful success, both informative and interesting.*

*Congratulations and Best Wishes for your continued efforts and success.*

  
BARBARA LEE  
Member of the Senate  
Ninth District



STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001  
(916) 322-4323

**Assembly  
California Legislature  
Committee on Appropriations**  
**CAROLE MIGDEN**  
CHAIRWOMAN

CHIEF CONSULTANT  
GEOFF LONG

May 29, 1997

Welcome to the attendees of the second National Asian Women's Health Organization Conference. The major focus of this conference is to increase civic participation and leadership development of Asian women's health issues.

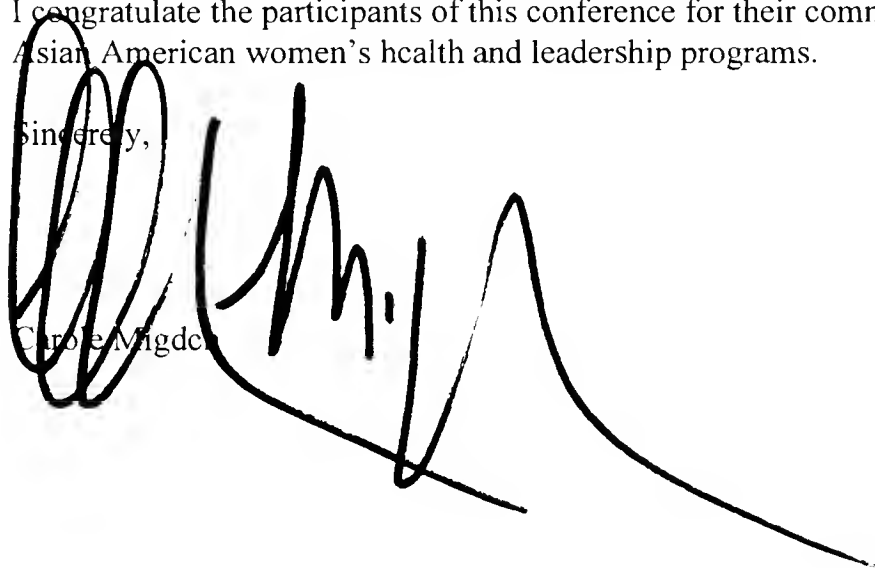
We enter the 21st Century with the knowledge that more women hold leadership positions in California than ever before in history. However, this representation is far from adequate in reflecting the number of women who populate our state. I enthusiastically support the increased involvement of Asian American women in government, health and community organizations to create a pro-active health movement.

Many of my constituents belong to the Asian American community. Therefore, I am well aware of the need for greater visibility and public policy regarding Asian American women's health issues. The success of this conference in bringing together the many professionals involved in promoting Asian women's health and leadership roles stands as a tribute to cooperation and community involvement.

I congratulate the participants of this conference for their commitment to the advancement of Asian American women's health and leadership programs.

Sincerely,

Carole Migden

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carole Migden', written over the printed name.

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STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
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## Assembly California Legislature

MIKE HONDA  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT

100 PASEO DE SAN ANTONIO  
STE 300  
SAN JOSE, CA 95113  
(408) 269 6500

March 21, 1997

Ms. Mary Chung  
Executive Director  
National Asian Women's Health Organization  
250 Montgomery St., Suite 410  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Participants, Activists and NAWHO staff:

Congratulations for convening the Second Biennial Conference of the National Asian Women's Health Organization. Please accept my best wishes for a productive and interesting experience.

I want to commend you all for your dedication and determination to make an impact on Asian women's health. Specifically, the focus on leadership development and civic participation embodied by the theme of "The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21st Century" is timely in an era of devolving government services and the dismantling of the safety net. As only one of two Asian Americans in the California State Legislature, I can personally attest to the need for more Asian American elected representatives in all levels of government.

I hope that you will use the skills acquired at this conference to actively make a difference in the lives of Asian American women in your home communities. Your participation in this conference is the beginning of a legacy of leadership and activism that will define health policy well into the next century.

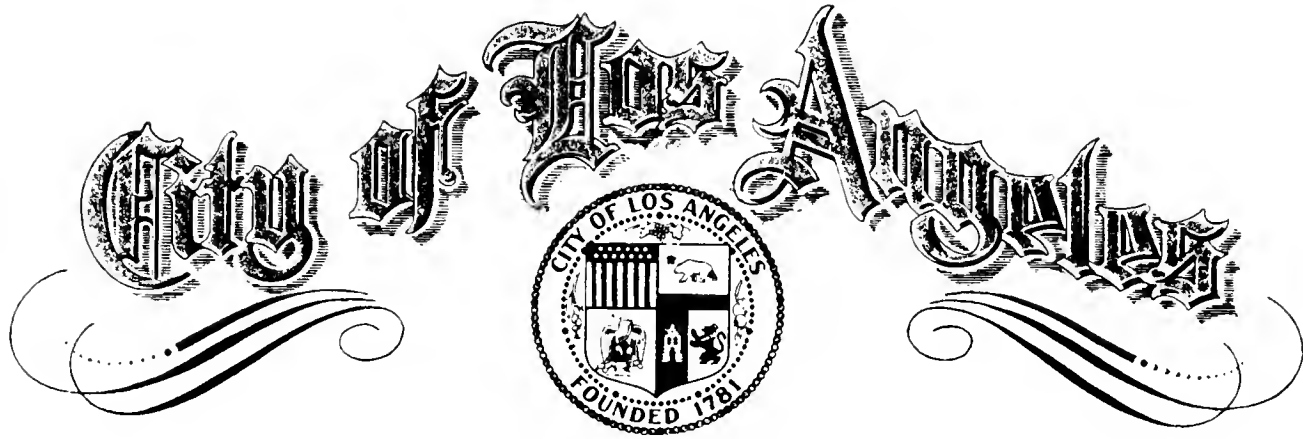
Sincerely,



Mike Honda  
23rd Assembly District

*Printed on Recycled Paper*





May 29, 1997

Dear Participants:

I am delighted to extend warm and cordial greetings the coordinators and participants of the National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO) second national health conference.

This year's conference theme, "The Quality of Our Lives: Empowering Asian American Women for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", conveys the focus of the conference and NAWHO's commitment to increasing civic participation and leadership development on Asian women's health issues. Your efforts to improve the quality of life for all Asian American women are truly worthy of praise and recognition.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful conference and for continued success in the days and years ahead.

Sincerely,



  
Richard J. Riordan  
Mayor

# National Asian Women's Health Organization

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## NAWHO'S MISSION AND HISTORY

The National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO) is a non-profit, community-based health advocacy organization, committed to improving the overall health status of Asian women and girls.

NAWHO develops and implements a broad agenda for Asian women's health, addressing the numerous factors that impact the physical, emotional, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of Asian women and girls. The foundation of NAWHO's programs is the belief that the needs and concerns of Asian women and girls are specific and diverse, and that they must be addressed within community, cultural, and linguistic contexts.

NAWHO was incorporated in September 1993 and received 501(c)3 standing as a non-profit

*"The movement addresses the inequities in access to economic, social, educational, leadership, and other life advancement opportunities for Asian women"*

organization in February 1994. NAWHO was founded in response to the absence of comprehensive and pro-active research and services addressing the health issues of Asian women and girls, as well as the lack of programs promoting equality for and the self-empowerment of Asian women and girls. By fostering information and resource sharing among Asian women, as well as by promoting a rigorous exploration of the issues affecting them, NAWHO has begun the process of mobilizing an Asian women's health movement. The

movement simultaneously addresses the inequities in access to economic, social, educational, leadership, and other life advancement opportunities for Asian women, in order to achieve social justice and universal access to health and social services.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAWHO has accomplished many "firsts" in its three-year history, implementing ground-breaking programs that initiate powerful organizing efforts at the grassroots level involving Asian women and girls from different ethnic communities and across class lines; projects that assess the health status of the diverse Asian women's community, and create an advocacy and public policy framework that reflects commonalities and differences within the Asian community. Some of NAWHO's major accomplishments include:

### ■ South Asian Women's Health Project

This Project was an advocacy and public education effort to raise awareness around the health needs of the South Asian women's community, which historically has been marginalized within the Asian American community. This was the first project in the country to focus exclusively on the health issues concerning immigrant South Asian women. Over 150 South Asian women, a majority of whom did not have health insurance, participated in the health assessment that culminated in the first South Asian Women's Health Day. NAWHO has published a report, *Emerging Communities*, which provides policy and community recommendations on addressing the needs of this underserved population.

### ■ Asian Women's Reproductive and Sexual Health Empowerment Project

In 1995, NAWHO began this project with a health needs assessment of the factors influencing the use of reproductive and sexual health services by Asian American women. Interviews and focus groups with Asian women of different ethnic, immigration, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds revealed that under-estimation of risk, silence and shame, relationship dynamics, and lack of access to information were crucial factors. In 1996, NAWHO conducted a statewide survey on the use of, knowledge of, and attitudes towards reproductive health technologies by Asian American women in California. NAWHO recently released the results of this unprecedented research, which revealed much about the health status of Asian American women, and the inaccessibility of reproductive health services and education.

### ■ American Women's Breast and Cervical Cancer Project

In the first year of this project, NAWHO conducted regional cultural competency trainings for health care providers on the need to increase outreach and early detection services to immigrant Asian women. NAWHO has also collected linguistically and culturally appropriate resources and information, and has served as a clearinghouse for Asian women with breast cancer, and individuals and organizations interested in breast cancer among Asian women. NAWHO convened the first National Asian American Breast Cancer Policy Summit, which brought together Asian community advocates and representatives from government health programs to create a plan of action that will involve Asian American women in all levels of the fight against breast cancer.

### ■ "Coming Together, Moving Strong: Mobilizing an Asian Women's Health Movement"

In 1995, NAWHO organized the first national Asian women's health conference, which brought together over 530 participants to discuss the critical health issues affecting Asian American women and girls. With the assistance of the California Wellness Foundation, NAWHO was able to grant 100 scholarships to low-income Asian women. The conference focused on issues that are often brushed aside in the greater Asian American community, such as domestic violence, young women's sexual health, breast cancer, and menopause.

### ■ U.S. Women of Color Delegation

NAWHO was a leading member of the U.S. Women of Color Delegation to the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. This 20 member Delegation also participated in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt. The Delegation includes representation from African, Latina, Native, and Asian American communities. As a result of the Delegation's advocacy efforts, the needs and concerns of U.S. women of color are being incorporated into U.S. government positions on global issues.

## **CURRENT PROGRAM PRIORITIES**

NAWHO continues its commitment to increasing the participation of Asian women in health promotion activities, as well as broadening the scope of health care and services in this country to be more inclusive of the needs of Asian women and girls. These are the current program priorities for NAWHO in 1997:

### ■ Southeast Asian Women's Reproductive Health Project

This project aims to increase knowledge and awareness of reproductive health issues among low-income, recent immigrant and refugee Vietnamese women. NAWHO began this project by conducting focus groups of Vietnamese women and men to assess their health knowledge, concerns, problems, and interests. NAWHO has provided skills building training sessions to one of the most vulnerable ethnic groups within the Asian population to gain a greater understanding of the health care system in the United States, as well as to facilitate their access to opportunities, resources, and activities that improve quality of life, such as English classes and employment training, which consequently affect and improve Asian women's health. This project will culminate in a self-empowerment health curriculum for Vietnamese women, which will serve as a model to be replicated in other areas with large concentrations of Southeast Asian populations.

### ■ Asian American Women's Breast and Cervical Cancer Project

This year NAWHO is expanding the Asian American Women's Breast and Cervical Cancer Project by conducting trainings outside of California. NAWHO has completed the National Action Plan on Asian Women and Breast Cancer and will be developing implementation strategies with community members, providers, and breast cancer advocates throughout the country.

### ■ Asian Women's Reproductive and Sexual Health Empowerment Project

In 1997, NAWHO plans to continue to work towards our public education and advocacy goals. Project activities will increase public awareness through media and special outreach events. In addition, NAWHO will partner with health care providers, using our survey key findings to better meet the reproductive health needs of Asian American women, through educational forums and dissemination of the project report. NAWHO will be working closely with the state of California on their new \$60 million State-Only Family Planning Program, which is under the joint administration of the Office of Family Planning and Medi-Cal. NAWHO was recently awarded a sub-contract to provide technical assistance for the project, to work with medical providers to expand access to comprehensive, high-quality family planning services for low-income individuals in California.

## **Program Agenda**

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# **THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES: EMPOWERING ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

**The Second Biennial National Asian Women's Health Conference  
May 30 - 31, 1997**

**The Biltmore Hotel  
Los Angeles, CA**

**Friday, May 30**

**7:30am - 9:00am**      **Breakfast and Networking Session/  
Regional Caucus Coordinator Meeting**      **Biltmore Bowl Foyer**

**9:00am - 9:15am**      **Conference Opening and Welcome**      **Biltmore Bowl**  
Mary Chung, *Executive Director*, NAWHO  
Jael Silliman, *EdD, Board Chair*, NAWHO

**9:15am - 10:15am**      **General Session I**      **Biltmore Bowl**  
**A Call to Action: Public Policy Advocacy and Civic Participation  
for Asian Women's Health**

This session will investigate the many ways through which Asian American women can shape and influence health and welfare policies in their communities. NAWHO is proud to begin the conference with an esteemed panel of accomplished individuals who will share their experiences in political activism, civic participation, and public policy advocacy.

Moderator: Mary Chung, *NAWHO Executive Director*  
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, *Member*, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, *Member*, Hawaii State Senate  
The Honorable Mike Honda, *Member*, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Velma Veloria, *Member*, Washington State House of Representatives  
Fran Visco, *JD, President*, National Breast Cancer Coalition  
The Honorable Wilma Chan, *Board member*, NAWHO and *Member*, Alameda County Board of Supervisors

**10:30am - 12:00pm**      **Regional Caucus Meetings**      **Corinthian, Moroccan, Corsican, Cordoban,  
Tiffany, Roman, Mediterranean, Heinsbergen,  
Regency Rooms, and the Biltmore Bowl**

The Regional Caucus Meetings will provide participants the opportunity to work with other conference attendees from the same region of the country on a specific Asian women's health issue. The groups will meet throughout the conference and report back during the closing session on how they plan to implement their strategies in their respective areas. These meetings will set the foundation for NAWHO's Regional Leadership Network which will continue to provide leadership development and training towards improving the lives of Asian women across the country.



**12:00pm-1:30pm**

**General Session II - Luncheon**

**Biltmore Bowl**

In the Aftermath of Welfare Reform: Securing a Safety Net for the Vulnerable in Our Communities

Moderator: The Honorable John Chiang, Esq., *Acting Member*, California Board of Equalization  
Dennis Hayashi, *Director*, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services  
Miya Iwataki, *Los Angeles Regional Caucus Chair*, NAWHO, and  
*Co-chair*, Asian Pacific Islanders California Action Network  
Yvonne Lee, *Commissioner*, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Andrea Spolidoro, *Associate Director*, Asian Pacific Older Adults Task Force

Special Guest:

Janice Mirikitani, *President and Executive Director for Programs*, Glide Memorial Church

**1:45pm - 3:00pm**

**Symposia I**

A. Closing the Gap: Contraceptive Knowledge and Teen Pregnancy Issues

**Corinthian Room**

Moderator: Lillian Lew, Med. RD, *Board Member*, NAWHO and  
*Project Director*, Southeast Asian Health Project  
Sharon Leffall, *Nurse Practitioner*, THE Clinic  
Teen Patient, THE Clinic  
Hon Tran, MPH, Southeast Asian Health Project  
Priya Jagannathan, MPH, *Program Specialist*, NAWHO

B. Communication and Cultural Competency: Seminar for Healthcare Providers on Asian Women and Breast Cancer

**Heinsbergen Room**

Trainers: Evaon Wong-Kim, LCSW, MPH, *Co-Trainer*, NAWHO Breast Cancer Program  
and San Francisco General Hospital  
Katya Min, *Women's Cancer Research Program Coordinator*, Asian Health Services  
Susan Berke Fogel, Esq., *Legal Director*, California Women's Law Center  
Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, PhD, *Assistant Professor*  
UCLA School of Public Community Health Science

C. Women of Color: Working Together to Build a Common Agenda

**Tiffany Room**

Moderator: Thi Pham, *San Francisco Regional Caucus Chair*, NAWHO and  
*Program Director*, Bay Area Region Tobacco Education Resource  
The Honorable Hilda Solis, *Member*, California State Senate  
Holly Mitchell, *Executive Director*, California Black Women's Health Project  
Marcia Choo, *Executive Director*, Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center  
Sylvia Robledo, *Administrative Director*, Public Affairs and Government Relations,  
California Hospital Medical Center

3:15pm - 5:00pm

**General Session III**

**Biltmore Bowl**

**Research, Outreach, and Advocacy: A National Plan of Action Against Breast and Cervical Cancer in the Asian American Community**

This panel will feature a report back from the first National Asian American Breast Cancer Summit, held by NAWHO in September of 1996. Participants will discuss the status of this devastating disease in the United States, and learn how to become more involved in the fight against breast cancer at all levels.

Moderator: Sophia Chang, MD, MPH, *Director*, HIV/AIDS Program, Kaiser Family Foundation  
 Laura Jeon, *Executive Director*, Korean Health Education and Information Referral Service  
 Rosemarie Henson, MSW, *Chief*, Program Services Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 Twei Doong, MA, *Deputy Director*, Office of Minority Health, DHHS  
 Susan Shinagawa, *Co-Trainer*, NAWHO Breast Cancer Program, University of California at San Diego Cancer Center  
 Yi-Shin Kuo, MD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University

Saturday, May 31

7:30am - 8:30am

**Breakfast Roundtables / Regional Caucus**

**Biltmore Bowl**

8:30am - 10:00am

**General Session IV**

**Biltmore Bowl**

**Our Lives, Our Times: Asian American Girls Testimonial**

Asian American girls participating in the youth programs of these community organizations will talk about their experiences and the challenges they are facing, including cultural and societal pressures such as the model minority myth and family relationships. This is an open forum for participants to share their stories and find ways to increase support for their peers.

Moderator: Christina Ree, *Regional Caucus Coordinator*, NAWHO

Korean Youth & Community Center  
 Asian Youth Center

Southeast Asian Health Project  
 Asian Community Mental Health Services

Hmong American Women's Association  
 Asian Pacific Big Sisters of Los Angeles

10:15am - 11:30am

**Symposia II**

**A. Domestic Violence: Creating Community Partnerships with Law Enforcement and Local Officials**

**Heinsbergen Room**

Moderator: Afton Hirohama, *Communications Associate*, NAWHO  
 Phyllis Murakawa, *President*, Asian Pacific Women's Center  
 Leni Marin, *Program Specialist*, Family Violence Prevention Fund  
 Hali Lee, *Executive Director*, New York Korean American Family Services Center  
 Kathy Spillar, *National Coordinator*, Feminist Majority  
 Sunita Mehta, *Board Member*, Sakhi

## Corinthian Room

C. Bringing Up Baby: Healthcare for Asian Mothers and their Children	Tiffany Room
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Moderator: Naovarone Phommachakr, *Executive Assistant*, NAWHO  
Caroline Yu, *New York Regional Caucus Chair*, NAWHO and  
*Executive Director*, Coalition for Asian American Families and Children  
Susan Shimazu, Asian Pacific Health Care Venture  
Joyce Kim, *Executive Director*, Asian Pacific Psychological Services

## Crystal Room

This session will look at the mental health status of Asian American women, and issue that many are reluctant to discuss within the Asian American community. From refugee experiences and war-time trauma, to the long-lasting effects of the Japanese American internment, the panel will discuss that have affected Asian women and their families, including the need to overcome racial, cultural, and gender barriers to research, services and care.

Moderator: Deborah Ching, *Advisory Board member*, NAWHO and  
*Executive Director*, Chinatown Service Center  
 Al Nakatani, MSW, *retired clinical social worker*  
 Mai Cong, *President*, Vietnamese Community Center of Orange County  
 Henry Chung, MD, *Board member*, NAWHO and *Medical Director*,  
 New York Chinatown Health Clinic  
 Margaret Penrose, *President and CEO*, Union of Pan-Asian Communities  
 Deborah Kawahara, PhD

## Symposia III

Moderator: Wynnie Wong, *Project Intern*, NAWHO  
Chi Kue, *Executive Director*, Hmong American Women Association  
Kim-Phuc Nguyen, MS, *Project Coordinator*, NAWHO  
Mei-yu Yu, PhD, *Women's Health Research Project*, University of Michigan  
Sue Wilks, *Executive Director*, Refugee Women Alliance  
Chancee Martorell, *Executive Director*, Thai Community Development Center

**B. Combating Sexually-Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS in the Asian American Community** **Corinthian Room**

Moderator: Sally Jue, *Board Member*, Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team  
Clarita Santos, *Chicago Regional Caucus Chair*, NAWHO and  
Asian American AIDS Services  
Irene Soriano, Asian Pacific Health Care Venture  
Li Ma, *Project Coordinator*, Asian Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS

**C. A Piece of the Action: Making Asian American Health Issues a Part of State and National Public Policy** **Tiffany Room**

Trainers: William K. Wong, *Advisory Board Member*, NAWHO and  
Office of California State Assemblyman Mike Honda  
The Honorable Velma Veloria, *Member*, Washington State House of Representatives

**D. Navigating the System: Asian Women's Health and Managed Care** **Roman Room**

Moderator: Sukhi Dosanjh, *Project Intern*, NAWHO  
Mei Ling Schwartz, *Director*, Patient, Health & Physician Education, Kaiser Permanente  
Julianna S. Gonen, PhD, *Research Associate*, Jacobs Institute for Women's Health  
Marsha Olivier, *Executive Director of Operations*, LA Care Health Plan

**3:45pm - 5:00pm**

**Closing Session/Regional Caucus Reports**

**Biltmore Bowl**

Facilitators: Mary Chung, *Executive Director*, NAWHO  
Christina Ree, *Regional Caucus Coordinator*, NAWHO

## Speaker Bios

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### **Wilma Chan**

The Honorable Wilma Chan was elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 1994. She is the current chair of the Legislative Committee and member of the Health Committee. Prior to her tenure with Alameda County, Ms. Chan served on the Oakland Board of Education and as its president from 1991 to 1993. The daughter of Chinese immigrants, she has been a strong advocate for youth and families-serving as program coordinator for Effective Parenting Information for Children, and working with the district's early childhood program.



### **Sophia Chang, MD, MPH**

Dr. Chang is the Director of the HIV/AIDS Program at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Previously, she was assistant professor in the Division of Internal Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Prior to joining the faculty at UCSF, she was responsible for the administration health services for persons with HIV/AIDS for the San Francisco Department of Public Health. While devoting much of her profession to providing direct patient care and teaching, Dr. Chang also conducts breast cancer research at the Medical Effectiveness Research Center for Diverse Populations. Her research focuses on breast cancer screening and the evaluation of breast abnormalities, with an emphasis on differences across racial and ethnic groups.

### **Deborah F. Ching, MPA**

Deborah F. Ching, MPA is the executive director of the Chinatown Service Center, a non-profit community-based organization operating a range of services including a licensed community health clinic, employment, social adjustment, family and youth counseling services to immigrant and refugee communities in the greater Los Angeles area. The Center provides these services to more than 14,000 persons annually. Ms. Ching has received many awards, including the 1997 Woman of the Year for the 45th Assembly District, selected by Majority Leader Antonio Villaraigosa, and the 1995 Outstanding Community Service Award for the Chinatown Public Safety Association.

### **Marcia Choo**

Marcia Choo serves as the executive director for the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center of Los Angeles, where she has led the organization to the forefront of intercultural mediation. Ms. Choo helped mediate between the City of Compton and the Samoan community following the shooting deaths of two Samoan brothers by a Compton police officer in 1991, and in the ongoing dialogue between the African American and Korean American communities. Ms. Choo also teaches a course on race relations and community conflict resolution at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

### **Henry Chung, MD**

Henry Chung, MD, is the medical director for the Chinatown Health Clinic in New York, where he directs and coordinates all clinical, health education and quality assurance activities in an ambulatory primary care facility providing more than 60,000 annual visits. He also maintains a part-time private practice in psychopharmacology and general psychiatry and also is a clinical assistant professor at New York University Medical Center. As a top researcher in the psychiatry field, he has published several articles and papers regarding health care reform, cultural issues in treatment programs and medical training and substance abuse. Dr. Chung also serves on the board of directors for the National Asian Women's Health Organization.

## **Mary Chung**

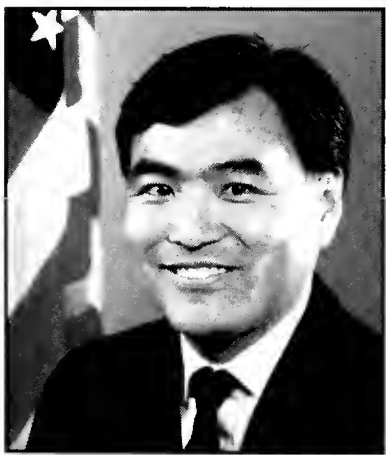
Mary Chung is the founder of the National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO). She was born in Korea and immigrated to the U.S. in 1980. As the executive director of the only national organization solely dedicated to improving the overall health and well-being of Asian women and girls, Ms. Chung has become a national leader in the women's health arena. Ms. Chung co-founded the Women of Color Coalition for Reproductive Health Rights (WOCCRHR), a national coalition representing women of color health organizations. In the international arena, Ms. Chung convened the first U.S. Women of Color Delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994, and led the group again in 1995 to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

## **Mai Cong, MFCC**

Mai Cong is the founder and chief executive officer of the Vietnamese Community of Orange County, Inc. (VNCOC). She is the founder of VNCOC's Senior Program, which currently has 5,000 registered members. Ms. Cong was previously Service Chief, Pacific Asian Service, in the Adult Mental Health Services of Orange County Health Care Agency. An active advocate in the Southeast Asian community, she has received approximately 40 awards and commendations from local and national organizations, including the "Woman of Distinction" award from Soroptimist International in March 1996 and the Civil Rights Leadership Award from the California Association of Civil Rights Organizations in October of 1994.

## **Julianna S. Gonen, PhD**

Julianna S. Gonen is a research associate with the Jacobs Institute for Women's Health in Washington, D.C. Dr. Gonen is currently working on a two-year exploration of the impact of managed care on health care services for women. Prior to joining the Institute, Dr. Gonen was senior research associate in the medical affairs department at the American Association of Health Plans and the director of industry research at the American Managed Care and Review Association.



## **Dennis Hayashi, JD**

Dennis Hayashi was appointed Director of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) by HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala in 1993. As Director of OCR, Ms. Hayashi is responsible for ensuring that programs receiving funds from the Department of Health and Human Services are in compliance with all civil rights laws. Mr. Hayashi is a distinguished attorney whose career has been devoted to fighting for civil rights and equality. From 1979 to 1991, he was an attorney for the Asian Law Caucus, Inc. litigating major impact precedent-setting cases and advocating the passage and enforcement of various civil rights laws. Mr. Hayashi has worked against hate crimes and anti-Asian violence, co-founding the National Network Against Anti-Asian Violence. As an attorney, he has also represented Fred Korematsu in his effort to overturn his World War II conviction for opposing internment of Japanese Americans.

## **The Honorable Mike Honda**

The Honorable Mike Honda was overwhelmingly elected to the California State Assembly in 1996 to become only the second Asian American serve in over 16 years. He initiated his first term in office by introducing legislation that encourages language translation services in domestic violence shelters, establishes teacher training on domestic violence, citizenship assistance centers, and a welfare to work pilot program. Prior to serving in the State Assembly, Mike served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, where he was a strong advocate for women's health: co-sponsoring a successful grant application for the award of \$440,000 for the county's Breast Cancer Early Detection Project; increasing funding for battered women's shelters in Santa Clara County; and securing funding which prevented the closure of the county's Perinatal Mother's Outreach Program. In addition, Mr. Honda sponsored the county's first Women's Health Conference on November 1, 1995, which focused on health promotion and access to health care for women in their post-reproductive years.



### **Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose**

Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose serves as President and CEO of the Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC). She oversees 35 programs in the areas of mental health, family violence, health promotion, substance abuse, delinquency and gangs, senior nutrition and in-home support, employment, business development, affordable housing, and community and corporate development. Her multicultural staff, representing 23 languages and dialects, reaches over 21,000 clients annually throughout the San Diego region. Ms. Iwanaga-Penrose has 26 years of experience in social service, psychotherapy, and training and consultation.

### **Laura Jeon**

Laura Jeon is the executive director of the Korean Health Education Information and Research Center (KHEIR), where she has worked for the last seven years. Previously, Ms. Jeon was the chairperson for the Korean American Inter-Agency Council in 1994 and 1995 and worked as deputy for Assemblymember Lucille Roybal-Allard. She was also the charter president of the Korean American Republican Association.

### **Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, MN, MA, PhD**

Marjorie Kagawa-Singer is an assistant professor at the UCLA School of Public Health Behavioral Sciences and Community Health Department and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, and an associate researcher for the National Research Center for Asian American Mental Health. Prior to teaching at UCLA, Ms. Kagawa-Singer was a staff researcher at the UCLA MEDTEP Outcomes Research Center for Asian and Pacific Islanders. The author of numerous publications, Ms. Kagawa-Singer's specialty is in oncology nursing care and research.

### **Yi-Shin Kuo, MD**

Yi-Shin Kuo is a fellow with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Dr. Kuo received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at M.I.T. and his M.D. from NYU School of Medicine. He was an intern in internal medicine at St. Luke's Hospital, resident in obstetrics/gynecology and administrative chief resident at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Galloway Junior Fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Kuo has published articles on various health issues in journals such as the Clinical Cancer Research and Medical Oncology.

### **Hali Hae Kyung Lee, MS W**

Hali Hae Kyung Lee was born in Seoul, Korea and moved to the United States at the age of 9. She was raised in the midwest and attended college at Princeton University. She is currently the executive director of the Korean American Family Service Center, a small non-profit counseling center in New York City which provides domestic violence intervention services to the Korean American community in the greater New York City metropolitan area. Prior to joining KAFSC, she studied Buddhism in Thailand for one year and worked as the director of volunteer services for Hope House, Inc., a mainstream domestic violence shelter for battered women and children in Kansas City, Missouri.



### **Commissioner Yvonne Lee**

For two decades, Yvonne Y. Lee has been active in civil rights issues, advocating for the needs of the indigent, the elderly and immigrant communities. In November 1995, Ms. Lee was appointed by President Clinton to serve a six year term on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Ms. Lee began her public service career in 1978 with Self-Help for the Elderly, a multi-service agency serving seniors in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she was program director for 10 years. Ms. Lee was also executive director of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance for four years, co-founded the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Reapportionment, and is a co-founding member of the National Network Against Anti-Asian violence. Ms. Lee developed the concept and co-produced "Separate Lives, Broken Dreams", a video documentary commemorating the 50th anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which won a Northern California Emmy for best documentary.



### **Sunita Mehta**

Sunita Mehta works as Grants Manager at The Sister Fund, a feminist foundation in New York City. She has worked for the Domestic Violence Prevention Program at Victim Services Agency, International Women's Tribune Centre, and The Emma Goldman Clinic for Women, the leading women-owned abortion provider and health clinic in the Midwest. Ms. Mehta is a board member at Sakhi for South Asian Women and the Third Wave Fund, a foundation devoted to the issues of young women aged 15-30.

### **Janice Mirikitani**

Janice Mirikitani is renowned for her vivid poetry and prose. Ms. Mirikitani's work presents stunning images of contemporary urban life, and confronts the dangers of passivity through her poems against the internment experience which silenced her own family and many Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans) for four decades. She began working at Glide Memorial Church in 1965, and rose to her present position as President of the Glide Foundation and Executive Director of Programs. Ms. Mirikitani has supported programs on women's health, support and recovery, and children, youth, and families. She has helped create and co-edit several anthologies, specifically to empower writers of color and women, and has been published in numerous textbooks, journals, anthologies, magazines, and articles.



### **Holly J. Mitchell**

Holly Mitchell is the executive director for the California Black Women's Health Project where she leads the effort to help educate and mobilize Black women to take control and become active participants in their health. Previously, Ms. Mitchell served as the project director for the California Women's Health Project, a program of the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research (CEWAER), where she developed a comprehensive public policy agenda aimed at improving the health status of California women. She is a former Coro Foundation fellow, field deputy to Senator Diane Watson and senior consultant to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. Ms. Mitchell has received several honors including a feature in Ebony Magazine as one of America's "50 Future Leaders."

### **Phyllis Murakawa**

Phyllis Murakawa is president of the Asian Pacific Women's Center, a transitional housing program for victims of domestic violence. Ms. Murakawa is also active with the Japanese American Citizens League and is a fellow in this year's class of the Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute. She is principal of Syner-Chi International, a marketing/public relations firm specializing in producing easy-listening music.

### **Alexander D. Nakatani, MSW**

Alexander Nakatani is a retired clinical social worker, who worked for the Veterans Administration in Los Angeles and Palo Alto for four years before becoming the chief of psychiatric social work in Palo Alto, and program director in the field office in San Jose. Currently, he is co-founder and consultant of the Guy T. Nakatani Life Management Program, conducting workshops and presentations relative to the multiple and complex issues surrounding the premature deaths of his three sons, Glen, Greg and Guy Nakatani.

### **Sylvia Robledo**

Sylvia Robledo is the director of public affairs and government relations for the California Hospital Medical Center, a private, non-profit, acute care hospital serving downtown Los Angeles and the Central City since 1887. Ms. Robledo works with government officials and the public in providing responsive healthcare. Ms. Robledo has more than 15 years of experience working in the public and private sector. She has worked with elected officials, government agencies, law enforcement, educators and health professionals on issues ranging from literacy programs and graffiti clean-up to changing public policy and shaping legislation. Her prior professional experience includes serving as a public affairs officer for a national award winning anti-vandalism outreach program.



### **Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard**

The first Mexican-American woman in Congress, Lucille Roybal-Allard was elected by California's 33rd Congressional District in 1992 and won re-election in 1994 and 1996. On January 8, 1997, the California Democratic Congressional Delegation elected Congresswoman Roybal-Allard as Chair. The Congresswoman is the first woman and Latina to head the 29-member Delegation. Congresswoman Roybal-Allard serves on two major committees in the 105th Congress- the House Committee on the Budget, and the House Committee on Banking & Financial Services. The California National Organization for Women named Roybal-Allard "Legislator of the Year" for her contributions on women's, domestic violence, and sexual assault issues. Ms. Roybal-Allard's advocacy has also earned her recognition from the Los Angeles Women's Legislative Coalition, the Asian Business Coalition, the Garment Worker's Justice Center, and the Asian Pacific American Labor Association.



### **Susan Matsuko Shinagawa**

Susan Shinagawa is a breast cancer survivor who will celebrate her sixth year of "thrivership" in October of 1997. Ms. Shinagawa is NAWHO's Breast Cancer Project Co-Trainer, and has been an active advocate for cancer survivors, with a primary focus on breast cancer outreach, education and health care services access/models of care for minority and low-income populations. She chairs the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) Breast Cancer Early Detection Program API Advisory Committee, and serves as the API cancer survivor representative member and chair of the Cancer Survivorship Task Force of the Intercultural Cancer Council. Ms. Shinagawa is on the Board of Directors of the Breast Cancer Fund, a national breast cancer foundation. She is an American Cancer Society-certified Breast Health Facilitator and a member of the UCSD Thrivers' Network.

### **The Honorable Hilda Solis**

The Honorable Hilda Solis made history when she was elected to the California State Senate in 1994, becoming the first Latina ever to serve in that legislative body. Solis serves as chair of the Senate Industrial Relations Committee and is a member of the Finance, Investment, and International Trade; Health and Human Services; Judiciary; Natural Resources; and the Public Employment and Retirement Committees. Previously, Ms. Solis served two years in the State Assembly. Prior to her election to the California State Legislature, Ms. Solis served as editor-in-chief for the White House Office of Hispanic Affairs during the Carter Administration in 1980. She also served as a management analyst for the U.S. Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C.



### **Katherine Spillar**

Kathy Spillar is the National Coordinator of the Feminist Majority Foundation, a national organization working for women's equality, empowerment, and non-violence. As one of its founders, Ms. Spillar has been a driving force in executing the Feminist Majority Foundation's diverse programs securing women's rights since its inception in 1987. In her capacity as National Coordinator, Spillar oversees the activities of the newly-launched National Center for Women and Policing. The National Center is working to increase the numbers of women in the ranks of law enforcement across the country as a strategy for reducing police brutality and improving police response to crimes of violence against women. Spillar led the Feminist Majority's initiative to gender-balance the Los Angeles Police Department from 1991-1994, and served as co-chair of the Women's Advisory Council to the Los Angeles Police Commission from 1992-1993. Prior to her tenure at the Feminist Majority Foundation, Spillar served four terms as President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Organization for Women, and led the organizing of the largest West Coast march in the history of the women's rights movement for keeping abortion safe and legal in 1986.



### **The Honorable Velma R. Veloria**

The Honorable Velma R. Veloria is a longtime human rights activist serving her third term in the Washington State House of Representatives. She is the current ranking minority member on the House Trade and Economic Development Committee and is also a member of the House Education Committee. Issues of importance to her include environmental justice, health care and trade. She is the highest ranking Filipino American elected official in the state of Washington. Ms. Veloria also serves on the planning committee for NAWHO's historic summit of Asian Pacific American women elected officials.

### **Fran Visco, JD**

Fran Visco is the first President of the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC), and a member of its Board of Directors. Formed in May 1991, NBCC is a grassroots advocacy organization of more than 400 organizational and 50,000 individual members. On May 14, 1993, President Clinton appointed Ms. Visco as one of three members of the President's Cancer Panel. Ms. Visco also sits on the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Integration Panel, which oversees the Department of the Army peer-reviewed research program, and co-chairs the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer. Until recently, she was also a member of the Board of Women's Way, the nation's oldest and largest women's funding federation. She also sits on the consumer advisory board of the Temple University Comprehensive Breast Center, the Legislative Affairs Committee of the American Cancer Society, Philadelphia Division, the legislative committees of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; the Advisory Committee to the Women's Center for Health Promotion at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and the hospital's Advisory Council to the undergraduate and graduate nursing programs; and the Advisory Committee for the Revlon/UCLA Women's Health Program.

### **Bill Wong**

Bill Wong is currently the legislative director for Assemblyman Mike Honda. In this capacity, he is responsible for developing and overseeing Assemblyman Honda's legislative agenda. Prior to this placement, he served as the chief consultant to the Senate Subcommittee on Asian Trade and Commerce under Senator Hilda Solis. In addition to his experience as a legislative staff member he spent over three years as a registered contract lobbyist. Mr. Wong has a total of over 8 years of experience in the legislative process, including placements under the Senate President pro Tempore David Roberti's Office of Asian Pacific Affairs and the California Senate Housing and Urban Development Committee. He is currently the president of the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center, on the board of the Chinese American Council of Sacramento, the Chair of the Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus of the California Democratic Party, and president of the Asian Pacific Democratic Club of Sacramento.



### **Evaon Wong-Kim, L.CSW, MPH**

Evaon Wong-Kim is an oncology social worker at San Francisco General Hospital, and Project Trainer for the Asian American Breast Cancer Project of the National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO). Ms. Wong-Kim is the co-founder and co-facilitator of the Chinese Women Cancer Support Group in San Francisco Chinatown, the first support group for Chinese-speaking women with cancer in the country. She trains volunteers for the American Cancer Society in order to serve Cantonese- and Mandarin-speaking patients with cancer. Evaon is a committee member of the Intercultural Cancer Council, a national advocacy organization for improving the cancer mortality rate of underserved populations. Ms. Wong-Kim is currently a PhD student in the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley.

# **Regional Caucuses - NAWHO's National Leadership Program**

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## **NAWHO's NATIONAL ASIAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

Through the 2nd Biennial Conference, NAWHO is building its constituency base and a national Asian women's leadership network. During the conference, Asian women and girls will be provided leaderships skills, training and resources, and will be given the opportunity to meet with others working on Asian women's issues in their regions of the country, through regional caucuses. Regional Caucuses are opportunity for participants to grasp the resources that exist in the women around them, and to use the momentum from this conference to organize within their own communities, in partnership with NAWHO. The Caucuses will provide a means to network with other women from their area, identify and prioritize issues that are relevant to their communities, and develop action plans.

Each caucus will have a regional leader, who will facilitate the sessions and report back to the full conference participants on their region's action plan. The regional caucus leaders and conference participants will become the basis of NAWHO's National Asian Women's Leadership Program, and will continue the work begun at the conference in their local communities. The National Asian Women's Leadership Program is a multi-year advocacy training and skills-building program for Asian women's health leaders. Seventeen regions of the country have been determined as priority areas. NAWHO is proud to introduce the following selected regional leaders.

### **NAWHO REGIONAL CAUCUS COORDINATOR:**

#### **Christina Ree**

As NAWHO's Regional Caucus Coordinator, Ms. Christina Ree has helped to develop the Regional Caucus Program, by establishing contacts with Asian women leaders throughout the country, and coordinating communication between Regional Caucus Chairs and NAWHO. Ms. Ree is also Project Coordinator at Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), a national association of Asian and Pacific Islander community health clinics. At AAPCHO, she coordinates the Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment and Leadership (APPEAL) project, a national program dedicated to making Asian and Pacific Islander communities tobacco-free through network development, capacity-building, education, advocacy and leadership development.

### **REGIONAL CAUCUS LEADERS:**

#### **Nancy H. Au**

Nancy H. Au is the President/Chief Executive Director of the WRAP Agency, a private nonprofit multicultural human services agency specializing in serving the Asian and Pacific Islander children, youth and families on the westside of Los Angeles County. Ms. Au is the immediate past president of Asian Pacific Planning Council (APPCON) of Los Angeles. Ms. Au serves as a steering committee member of the Los Angeles County Medi-Cal Mental Health Managed Care Planning Committee, and is a member of the Regional Community Advisory Conference for L.A. Care Health Plan.

Los Angeles

### **Alicia De Leon-Torres**

Alicia De Leon-Torres is the Program Director for the Union of Pan Asian Communities' Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program, the Office of Child Abuse Prevention - After School Program, Teens Speak: A Forum for the Filipino Youth, and the Filipino Teen Suicide Prevention Program. Ms. De Leon-Torres currently serves on many boards and committees including the Filipino American Youth and Family Empowerment Coalition, Children Initiative's 0-6 Task Force/Child Care Component, and the Prevention Task Force for Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Offenders.

San Diego

### **Miya Iwataki**

Miya Iwataki has worked in the field of governmental policy, public and community advocacy for more than 20 years. She is a manager with the L.A. County Department of Mental Health Services Public Private Partnership Program, as was formerly the manager of the Community Relations Office and the Planning and Policy Office of AIDS Programs. In her volunteer capacity, Ms. Iwataki is California co-chair of the Asian Pacific Islanders California Action Network, a coalition of health and human service providers, a member of the State Steering Committee of the California Pan Ethnic Health Network and serves on the State Task Force on Multicultural Health. Ms. Iwataki also hosts and produces a weekly program on KPFK 90.7 FM Pacific Radio and is a columnist for Tozai Times.

Fresno

### **Chi Kue**

Chi Kue is currently the executive director of the Hmong American Women Association, Inc. (HAWAI). HAWAI provides job orientation, teen pregnancy prevention services, health education, women's leadership development, and parent-student support services for the Hmong community in Fresno. Ms. Kue

is a nurse from Laos with over nine years of experience in the health care field. In addition, Ms. Kue is an experienced Employment Specialist Counselor, providing assessment, referral, job training and placement, and developing/managing employment resources. Ms. Kue is on the Board of Central Valley Regional Team Linkages and Fresno Unified School ESL Division.

### **Thu-Van Nguyen**

Thu-Van Nguyen is Translation Services Coordinator for the Cross Cultural Health Care Program at Pacific Medical Clinics (PMC) in Seattle. She oversees the translation of health and patient education materials in over twenty languages. Ms. Nguyen was instrumental in the initiation and development of the Interpreter Services Program at PMC, the first medical center in the Seattle area to make this service available in-house for non-English speaking patients. Ms. Nguyen is also a co-founder of the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA) and is currently an active member of its Board of Directors.

Seattle

### **Jocelyn C. Pan**

Jocelyn C. Pan, MPH received her MPH from the Boston University School of Public Health in 1995 and has worked in Boston's Asian community, first as a volunteer and currently as full-time staff at South Cove Community Health Center in Chinatown. As Programs Coordinator at South Cove's Family Life Center, Ms. Pan hopes to develop activities that integrate the young and the old, across generations and age groups. Her involvement with the youth program at South Cove has also made clear the need for programs for Asian adolescents, particularly girls, that will instill self-confidence and a sense of empowerment.

Boston

## Bay Area

### Thi Kim Pham

Thi Kim Pham is the Program Director at Bay Area Region Tobacco Education Resource (BARTER), a tobacco control partnership of seven Bay Area counties and the City of Berkeley. Ms. Pham's previous work as Project Coordinator for Asian Communities Against Tobacco focused on developing merchant education programs on

preventing tobacco sales to minors, conducting purchase surveys, and developing tobacco education and control materials for the Chinese, Korean, and Laotian communities of Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda. Ms. Pham is also working with Asian communities to find sponsorship alternatives to tobacco advertising for Asian events and to counter tobacco dumping practices outside the United States.

### Clarita Santos

Clarita Santos, MPH received her MPH in Health Policy and Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. She works as an HIV/AIDS Case Manager at Asian American AIDS Services and serves as an advocate for addressing the HIV/AIDS needs of Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Ms. Santos is both a member of the Chicago and Cook County HIV Services Planning Council and the Leadership Center for Asian Pacific Americans.

### Merina Sapolu

Merina Sapolu is the Health Educator for Kokua Kalihi Valley, specifically working on STD/HIV issues. She has been with Kokua Kalihi Valley, which provides comprehensive family planning services, for 22 years. Prior to moving to Hawaii, Ms. Sapolu taught for 11 years. She attended Samoa College in Western Samoa and became a certified teacher in 1962.

### Mona Shah

Mona Shah, MSSW, is the lead case manager/Youth Service Coordinator at Asian American Recovery Services (AARS.), The Place in San Jose, California. AARS. The Place is a comprehensive outpatient substance abuse treatment and intervention program servicing Asian youth ages 13-20 and adults. Ms. Shah also served as the chairperson of the 2nd annual "Sister to Sister" Asian girls conference which targets "at-risk" Asian females. Ms. Shah coordinates all the youth programs and works with a case load of adolescents providing culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate treatment, counseling and case management services. Ms. Shah received her Masters of Science in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and is also involved in the Indian American Community Center in Santa Clara.

### Eunice Yoon

Eunice Yoon, MPH is a third-year medical student at the University of Chicago and completed her MPH degree at U.C. Berkeley this year. She is interested in Asian and Korean political and cultural issues, urban communities, and social epidemiology.

### **Caroline J. Yu**

Caroline J. Yu is a co-founder and the first executive director of the Coalition for Asian- American Children and Families, a policy and advocacy non-profit organization in New York City that challenges the barriers to health and human services that Asian American children and families face.

Prior to this position, she was a senior personnel administrator for the New York State Division of Human Rights where she implemented the Family and Medical Leave Act. Ms. Yu currently serves on the New York City Comptroller's Immigrant Advisory Council,

Manhattan Borough President's Office Asian Advisory Council, and the National Advisory Committee for Cultural Competence of the Child Welfare League of America. Ms. Yu holds a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

### **Mei-yu Yu**

Mei-yu Yu, Ph.D. received her M.D. from Shanghai First Medical University in 1968 and was a physician for 13 years. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology with a specialization in Demography in 1986 from the University of Texas in Austin. She has been conducting a number of research projects focusing on women's health since 1990 at the University of Michigan School of Nursing. She is now the Principal Investigator of the "Healthy Chinese Americans" project in Detroit-Ann Arbor areas in Michigan.

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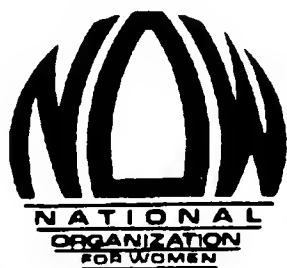
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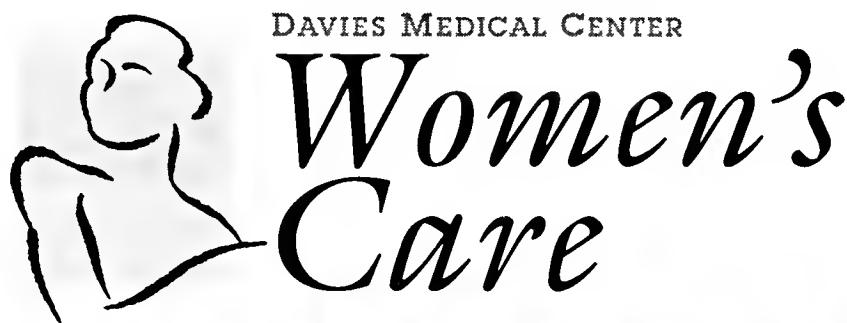
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